



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
(ECOFISH) PROJECT

ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (ECOFISH) Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

(01 OCTOBER-31 DECEMBER 2012)

ECOFISH Document No.: 03/2013
Version: Final

Implemented with:

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
National Government Agencies
Local Government Units
Assisting Organizations

Supported by:

United States Agency for International Development
Contract No.: AID-492-C-12-00008

Managed by:

Tetra Tech ARD

13 February 2013

Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project

Quarterly Progress Update *(01 October 2012 – 31 December 2012)*

ECOFISH Document No.:03/2013
Version: Final

Implemented with:

Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
National Government Agencies
Local Government Units
Assisting Organizations

Supported by:

United States Agency for International Development
Contract No.: AID-492-C-12-00008
Philippines

Managed by:

Tetra Tech-ARD

13 February 2013

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

1. Introduction

The technical assistance and services contract was awarded to Tetra Tech for the implementation of USAID/Philippines' Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project in June 29, 2012, under contract number AID-492-C-12-00008. The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. The ECOFISH Project is intended to foster fishing sector reforms through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in larger marine conservation areas and involving clusters of Local Government Units (LGUs). It will promote the growth and restore the profitability of fisheries through conservation of ecosystem health and effective management.

The ECOFISH Project is in line with the current U.S. Country Assistance Strategy with respect to assistance directed at reducing threats to biodiversity and improving natural resources and environment. It is also expected to contribute to achieving "Development Objective 3: Environmental Resilience Improved" (particularly "IR1.3. Natural Resources and Environmental Services Improved") of the proposed results framework for the planned USAID/Philippines Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy. The ECOFISH Project is also designed to contribute to priority goals and actions laid out in the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) particularly Chapter 4 (Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries), and Chapter 10 (Protection, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Environment and Natural Resources). This five-year project will provide technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines (GPH), through the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and implemented in partnership with selected LGUs.

This report is a brief quarterly update covering the period 01 October – 31 December 2012. It consists of a monthly calendar of activities for the quarter and discussion of important accomplishments and priority implementation issues.

2. Project Objectives

The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. It will conserve biological diversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in eight marine key biodiversity areas (MKBAs) using the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) as a cornerstone of improved social, economic and environmental benefits.

The application of EAFM principles and practices is a proven approach for reversing the decline of fish biomass in municipal waters and build community resilience. EAFM aims to manage fisheries at ecosystem scales rather than the scales defined by jurisdictional boundaries. Effective collaborative governance arrangements for EAFM provides the multiple benefits of improving ecosystem management, reducing the unit costs of management, and making the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships (PPPs) more feasible and attractive to investors. Development of PPPs is a key strategy of the Philippine Development Plan.

The ECOFISH Project is designed to make an impact on eight (MKBA) in the country, namely: (1) the Calamianes Group of Islands MKBA, (2) Lingayen Gulf MKBA, (3) Ticao Pass – Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino Strait MKBA, (4) Danajon Reef MKBA, (5) South Negros MKBA, (6) Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte MKBA, (7) Tawi-Tawi in the Sulu Archipelago MKBA, and (8) Verde Island Passage MKBA. They represent all six marine bio-regions of the Philippines and were selected due to their extremely high need for marine biodiversity conservation. These areas are marine ecosystem “hotspots” in the Philippines that mirror the common issues impacting capture fisheries locally and nationally.

3. Monthly Calendar of Key Activities

October 2012

01 October	ECOFISH briefing for BFAR Director A. Perez by R. Anderson, R Guieb and G. Silvestre Ocular inspection of project launch venue by COP with BFAR Director A. Perez Finalized documents and set up of ECOFISH Cebu Office.
02 October	Skype conference among G. Green, K. Kimball, G. Silvestre and N. Atienza on project progress and admin/finance matters.
03 October	Meeting with COR to review and agree on points for the revision of the Life of Project work plan. Skype conference among S. Schmida, G. Green, R. Guieb, R. Rosales and G. Silvestre re. Micro Soft and PACPI PPP status and next steps.
04 October	Briefing of Rupert Sievert, site coordinator for the Ticao-San Bernardino-Lagonoy MKBA and Nestor Escara, site coordinator for the Surigao del Sur and del Norte MKBA, regarding ECOFISH Project and start up activities for their respective sites. G. Silvestre attendance in the ADB CTI-SE Asia project inception workshop (Astoria Hotel, Ortigas Center).
08 October	Meeting with Noel Barut of Marine Fisheries Division of the Natinoal Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) on tuna management for Western Pacific and East Asia (WPEA). Meeting with Dr. Tayamin of NFRDI on prioritization of science agenda of BFAR. Work on ECOFISH project flyers (for general audience, NGAs/partners and LGUs).
09 October	Briefing of Vivien Facunla, site coordinator for the Calamianes Group of Islands MKBA, regarding ECOFISH Project and start up activities for her site. Project launch meeting with BFAR Assistant Director B. Tabios and Info Division Head M. Guerra (venue, program, speakers and participants).
10 October	Meeting with COR and ECOFISH Team on finalization of programs, presentation materials, talking points, and other arrangements for the launching of ECOFISH Project during the Fish Conservation week of BFAR. Meeting with BFAR Region 5 officials for information and initial insights for

	<p>the selection of focal area in the Ticao pass-Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino Strait MKBA.</p> <p>Final review/revision of project launch program, venue, speakers, participants, backdrops and flyers; clearance by COR/USAID.</p>
11 October	Meeting with BFAR Provincial Fisheries Officer for the Province of Tawi-Tawi to introduce ECOFISH Project.
12 October	<p>Briefing of Anecita Gulayan, site coordinator for the Danajon Reef MKBA and Aileen Felix, site coordinator for the Tawi-Tawi MKBA, regarding ECOFISH Project and start up activities for their respective sites.</p> <p>Technical support to USAID-RDMA in preparation for live reef fish trade dialogue between BFAR Director and his counterpart in Malaysia and Indonesia.</p> <p>Exploratory visit in 6 mainland LGUS of Surigao del Norte with Provincial Fishery Staff.</p>
13 October	Exploratory visit to 8 LGUs in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte with Provincial Fishery Staff.
16 October	<p>Work on project launch venue set-up.</p> <p>Project launch briefing for BFAR Director A. Perez.</p>
17 October	<p>ECOFISH launching at BFAR including formal ceremonies and presentation of project overview, key strategies and activities in the morning. Short workshop on familiarization of focal sites and project areas and criteria for selecting the focal areas.</p> <p>Meeting with LMP President D. Marcos, BFAR Director A. Perez and USAID/OEECC Chief, R. Anderson re. BFAR. LMP and ECOFISH collaboration areas.</p>
18 October	<p>Meeting of Chiefs of Party of USAID funded projects to familiarize grantees and contractors on the overall activities funded under the Office of the Energy Environment and Climate Change.</p> <p>Meeting with DOST-ICTO and Microsoft senior personnel on potential PPP.</p>
19 October	Debriefing on ECOFISH launching and planning for immediate next steps activities.
22 October 23 October	Cities Development Initiative (CDI) Action Planning Workshop, Batangas City Skype conference among G. Green, K. Kimball, G. Silvestre and N. Atienza re. project progress and finance/admin matters.
24 October	<p>Introductory meeting with BFAR Municipal Fisheries Coordinators of Bongao, Simunul and Panglima Sugala municipalities of Tawi-Tawi on the ECOFISH Project.</p> <p>Meeting with Palawan Provincial Fishery Officer to discuss ECOFISH's mobilization and start up activities in Calamianes Group of Islands. Informal meeting with Governor Baham Mitra of Palawan to introduce ECOFISH.</p> <p>Meeting with Microsoft, DOST-ICTO, on potential PPP.</p>
29 October	Presented ECOFISH Project and potential fisheries management approach for large migratory pelagic species in the archipelagic waters during the Western Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Tuna Management Planning workshop between Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

	Meeting with representative of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) to discuss requirements for Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) clearance and the possibility of including the ECOFISH project in the PCSD Council meeting agenda.
30 October	Courtesy call with the OIC of Tawi-Tawi Provincial Government Office through the Provincial Administrator to introduce the ECOFISH Project. Meeting with PRIMEX management re. ARD-PRIMEX staff collaboration and coordination.

November 2012

01 November	USCTI meeting to plan for the dialogue between heads of Fisheries Departments of Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia on live reef fish trade.
05 November	Introductory meeting with BFAR Municipal Fisheries Coordinators of the municipalities of Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas and South Ubian municipalities about the ECOFISH Project. ECOFISH project orientation for BFAR Region 8 personnel as requested by the Regional Director.
06 November	Courtesy call and meeting with Coron Mayor and head of offices to discuss the ECOFISH project and request endorsement resolution to PCSD. Meeting with PACPI and NFI on potential PPP.
07 November	Meeting with Busuanga Municipal Agriculturist and Barangay chairmen of Sagraa, Bogtong and Conception to discuss ECOFISH project and start up activities.
08 November 09 November	ECOFISH team planning meeting of thematic leads. Presented and discussed thematic leads' approach to delivery of ECOFISH project initiatives to achieve the deliverables.
12 November	Courtesy call to the Municipal Mayor of Linapacan to briefly discuss the ECOFISH project and start up activities.
13 November	Consultation with BFAR National Department Heads and Regional Directors on the ECOFISH Life of Project (LOP) Work Plan during the BFAR Planning meeting at the DAP, Tagaytay City. This included a presentation of the details of the LOP Work Plan, incorporation of comments and suggestions, and final selection of focal areas, expansion areas and replication areas of the project.
14 November	Coordination meeting with MERF for baseline assessments Meeting with NFR and Sikat NGO to scope for potential collaboration with ECOFISH
15 November	Meeting with ADB-CTI Project on collaboration for CCT+ policy work Meeting with Landbank on potential PPP
19 November	Briefing of Maricar Daquioag, site coordinator for the Verde Island Passage MKBA, regarding ECOFISH Project and start up activities for her site. Meeting with BPI on potential PPP
20 November	Meeting with the CCEF, ELAC, TK and BEMO to align approaches and strategies of ECOFISH in law enforcement in Danajon Bank.

	<p>Meeting with FirstGen on potential PPP. Skype conference among G. Green, K Kimball, G. Silvestre, N. Armada and N. Atienza on various technical, finance and admin matters</p> <p>Meeting with Microsoft and DOST-ICTO on potential PPP Teleconference with Hapinoy/Microventures Foundation on potential PPP</p>
21 November	<p>Participated in workshop on fisheries management initiated by the Danajon Bank Management Council. Meeting with BFAR Regional Director Nerio Casil to discuss change in priority areas/LGUs and office space for ECOFISH. Meeting with Ayala Technology Business Incubator on potential PPP.</p>
22 November	<p>Presentation of EAFM training modules during the workshop on the Review of Coastal Resource Management and Fundamentals of EAFM for BFAR's FAO-RFLP program in Zamboanga del Norte.</p>
23 November	<p>Meeting with Development Bank of the Philippines and Knowledge Channel on potential PPPs.</p>
26 November	<p>Briefing of Maria Aimee Sobrevega, site coordinator for the Southern Negros Island MKBA regarding ECOFISH Project and start up activities for her site. Meeting with PPP Center of the Philippines for potential support on PPP development.</p>
28 November	<p>Briefing of Provincial Agriculture Officer of Palawan and other officials of the province on ECOFISH Project. Focus group discussion on registry of municipal fisherfolks, hiring and training of Municipal Fisheries Officers with BFAR Region 7 (led by Director Bojos) and selected mayors. Meeting with ISO-ADMU on potential PPP.</p>
29 November	<p>Presentation ECOFISH Project to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) during their board meeting. Meeting with BFAR Region 8 Director and Northern Samar PFO to plan initial activities for the first quarter of 2013. Meeting of project training team to discuss and draft training curriculum contents and training program implementation. Meeting with GBI and USAID-OEE on potential PPP with Microsoft. Meeting with Smart Telecommunications on potential PPP.</p>

December 2012

03 December	<p>Courtesy visit and introduction of ECOFISH Project at BFAR Provincial Fishery Office and Negros Oriental Environment and Natural Resources Department (ENRD), Dumaguete City.</p> <p>Skype conference among G. Green, K. Kimball, G. Silvestre, N. Armada and N. Atienza on various technical, finance and admin matters.</p>
04 December 05 December	<p>Briefing of selected partner mayors during the General Assembly Meeting of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines on ECOFISH Project forthcoming activities and interventions in their respective municipalities.</p>
06 December	<p>Initial draft of training curriculum for Municipal Fisheries Officers. PPP</p>

	orientation for BFAR Region 5 officials given by the SSG consultants including meeting between SSG consultants and C. Duran, private sector representative in Sorsogon.
10 December	<p>Presentation of ECOFISH LOP Work Plan at USAID.</p> <p>Participated in Negros Occidental Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) meeting and met with the CFRM Coordinator from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and BFAR Provincial Fishery Officer.</p> <p>Skype conference among G. Green, S. Schmida, T. Buck, L. Ang and G. Silvestre re. SSG subcon and status of PPPs.</p>
11 December	<p>Meeting with Philippine Businesses for the Environment (PBE) on potential PPP.</p> <p>Meeting with PRIMEX management re. ECOFISH-PRIMEX coordination/collaboration and staff benefits.</p>
12 December	<p>Meeting with DBM and NSO at the office of the Undersecretary for Information Technology of DBM for a full briefing about Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture. Planning meeting with REECS and MERF on baseline and monitoring activities.</p> <p>Attend DENR project mapping meeting.</p>
13 December	<p>Meeting with Mort Rosenblum of International Herald Tribune on tuna fisheries and their management in the Philippines.</p> <p>Meeting with PACPI on potential PPP.</p> <p>Meeting with N. Rosenblum (International Herald Tribute) re. overfishing and communicating with the public.</p>
14 December	<p>Orientation of law enforcement community and NGOs in Region 7 (PNP, Maritime, Coast Guard, NBI, DENR/CMMO, Customs, Ports Police, Navy, CCEF, ELAC) about ECOFISH project implementation in Central Visayas on invitation of the BFAR7 which hosted the meeting in their office in Cebu.</p> <p>Meeting with ABS-CBN Foundation on potential PPP.</p> <p>Meeting with R. Trono re. PPP prospects in the VIP site.</p>
18 December 19 December 20 December	<p>ECOFISH year 1 annual planning meeting. Activities included introduction to LOP and results framework; inputs from thematic leads, drafting and presentation of site level year 1 work plan; dialogue with BFAR Director; and discussions with site coordinators on immediate next steps, reporting and other submissions, and schedules.</p> <p>Discussion with BFAR Director A. Perez about the national fisherfolk registration concept note.</p> <p>Blessing of ECOFISH Cebu Office.</p>

4. Important Accomplishments

- ECOFISH Project was formally launched at BFAR Central Office in Quezon City. The activities included a formal ceremony and presentation of project overview, key strategies and activities in the morning and a short workshop on familiarization of focal sites and project areas and criteria for selecting the focal areas in the afternoon.
- Consultation with BFAR National Department Heads and Regional Directors on the ECOFISH Life of Project (LOP) Work Plan during the BFAR Planning Meeting at the DAP, Tagaytay City. This included a presentation of the details of the LOP Work Plan, incorporation of comments and suggestions, and final selection of focal areas, expansion areas and replication areas of the project.
- Presentation ECOFISH Project to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development during their board meeting. This is a prerequisite for the approval of ECOFISH Project application to implement the project in the Calamianes Group of Islands MKBA.
- Focus group discussion (FGD) with BFAR Region 7 and selected mayors leading to the realization of the issues surrounding fisheries registration and licensing on the ground. FGD on feasibility of hiring and training of municipal fisheries officers for 4-6th class municipalities – this is one of the first activities where ECOFISH is facilitating the conceptualization and implementation of a BFAR national program (assistance to LGUs in hiring and training MFOs), with the idea of implementing the program in the ECOFISH sites, with seamless integration of ECOFISH interventions (training) and BFAR activities (cost-sharing hiring of MFOs).
- Presentation of ECOFISH LOP Work Plan to USAID. USAID suggested further revisions which the project incorporated into the final draft.
- ECOFISH Year 1 Annual Planning Meeting. Activities included introduction to LOP and results framework; inputs from thematic leads; drafting and presentation of site level year 1 work plan; dialogue with BFAR Director; and discussions with site coordinators on immediate next steps, reporting and other submissions, and schedules. The year 1 work plan was guided by the most recent version of the LOP Work Plan which was more or less already in its final stages of completion. Both documents were expected to be submitted as final version on the second week of January 2013.
- ECOFISH has submitted initial requirements for Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) clearance to PCSD to allow the project to conduct its activities in Calamianes Group of Islands. ECOFISH project provided the initial documentation requirements to PCSD to facilitate the application and evaluation of the project for SEP clearance. The SEP clearance system in Palawan is a requirement under Republic Act 7611 (Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act).

Priority Implementation Issues

- The ECOFISH team was required to incorporate further revisions during the presentation of ECOFISH LOP Work Plan at USAID. This included the incorporation of clear graphical representation of the project's national and site level activities and their schedule of completion for the entire life of the project. The team readily complied and incorporated these changes into the final draft.

- The 13 November 2012 LOP consultation with BFAR in Tagaytay City also served as the official starting date for the site coordinators to be allowed to conduct formal orientation and consultations with LGU executives and other partners in their respective sites. Before that ECOFISH Project's site level activities were just confined to short briefing sessions and introduction meetings with likely local partners. The BFAR Director explicitly instructed the ECOFISH team not to conduct any site activity before the go-ahead signal from the National and Regional Directors is secured. This is to avoid confusion and overlaps with other on-going as well as planned projects. Aside from its regular activities, BFAR is also in the process of preparation for incoming projects funded by other donor agencies and more or less with similar interventions as ECOFISH. There were potential overlaps recognized in some areas and BFAR wanted to optimize the use of resources by resolving these conflicts and overlaps before proceeding with final focal area selection, project briefing, and orientation at the sites.
- The focus group discussion with BFAR Region 7 and selected mayors on fisheries registration and licensing and training of municipal fisheries officers has made the ECOFISH team realize the issues and can guide the design of these initiatives.
- As also mentioned in the previous Quarterly Update, the hiring of staff, particularly the site coordinators, has protracted a bit because of the lapse in availability of previously committed staff and the need for 1-3 months prior notice before staff can leave their current employment/engagement. But as of 30 December 2012, site managers are all on-board and conducting initial briefing of LGU and other local partners before formal launching and ECOFISH Project Orientation scheduled in January and February 2013.
- The start up activities in the Calamianes Group of Islands were greatly affected by the SEP clearance system being enforced in the province of Palawan. The SEP clearance documentation requirements will have to be submitted before the May election to avoid reiteration of request for endorsement resolutions from municipal council.